

Quarterly Issues Report
WLFI-TV
First Quarter, 2009

Agriculture and Business

News Channel 18 provided coverage of Greater Lafayette Commerce's annual lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., where local leaders met with Congressional representatives on a variety of projects, including continued funding for road improvements, and development of the Wabash Riverfront.

The station also sent a reporter to Greensboro, North Carolina, to provide coverage of a local WIRED initiative to the Piedmont Triangle. The local delegation studied how North Carolina's WIRED grant was used for economic development purposes.

Agriculture and Business

February 26, 2009 6:00 p.m.

The Lafayette housing market is bucking the national trend of slumping home sales and depreciation in value.

Laura Kirtley joins us with more on newly released data.

Good news for the area home buyers and sellers.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency has ranked Lafayette 26th out of the 300 largest Metropolitan Areas in terms of housing appreciation.

Houses in the Lafayette area are not losing value like so many around the nation.

First-time home buyers like Andrew Conner say this news only reinforces the decision to buy now.

February 27, 2009 6:00 p.m.

A group of Lafayette-area leaders is on their way back to Indiana after what they call three successful days in Washington D-C to pitch local initiatives to lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Tom Harmeson has the story from Washington.

March 4, 2009 6:00 p.m.

Economic development leaders from north-central Indiana are learning how another region is targeting success.

They're in Greensboro, North Carolina, where the Piedmont Triad Partnership is focusing on just four areas to boost its economy.

Jeff Smith is traveling with the group, and has this report.

Crime

WLFI looked at the relationship between the current economic conditions and crime rates during the first quarter of 2009, finding no correlation, according to a study conducted by Lafayette Police Chief Don Roush. Chief Roush also released 2008 crime statistics for Lafayette during the first quarter.

The station also kept viewers informed about the ongoing search for a northern Indiana man who was suspected of abducting a woman near Mishawaka and releasing her in the News Channel 18 viewing area before attempting other abductions locally.

February 19, 2009 11:00 p.m.

Lafayette Police say as economic conditions deteriorate, crime levels remain constant. Chief Don Roush says he's studied crime statistics from the last century.

During hard economic times, like the Great Depression, crimes did not increase nationwide.

And, he says, locally, the same is true now.

Roush says it is hard to find a correlation between the downturn in the economy and an increase in crime.

February 24, 2009 6:00 p.m.

Some types of violent crime rose in Lafayette last year, while many lesser crimes decreased.

Police Chief Don Roush says aggravated assault in the city followed a national trend and rose 34 percent.

Murder was also up.

There were three murders in 2008 and none in 2007.

At the same time other crimes like rape, robbery, burglary, theft and arson went down.

Roush says he has also seen less graffiti in the city.

He believes citizens deserve the credit.

February 25, 2009 6:00 p.m.

Police have named a person of interest in the abduction of a northern Indiana woman who was released in rural White County.

Mishawaka Police need help locating 48-year-old Michael Lindsey.

Diversity

WLFI made viewers aware of how they can shape the work of the West Lafayette Human Relations Commission by participating in a survey on attitudes toward diversity.

The city's Human Relations Commission also released its final report on a case of alleged discrimination involving African Americans and the Triple X Restaurant. The station also profiled all of the YWCA of Greater Lafayette's Salute To Women award winners, including Dr. Zenephia Evans, a Purdue biology professor and member of the Black Caucus.

Diversity

February 10, 2009

Now, three months later, the commission released its decision, but not the contents of the report. Kim Reisman 2:33:20:00: "We came to the conclusion there was no probable cause to believe discrimination took place." The West Lafayette Human Relations Commission originally received a complaint from Meisha Waters, who alleged she and her friends were discriminated against by employees at the Triple XXX restaurant. Commissioners Kim Reisman and Zarjoh Baha investigated the incident. Their research took them to Triple XXX.

February 19, 2009 12:00 p.m.

Hundreds of West Lafayette residents may take part in giving their definition of "diversity".

The West Lafayette Human Relations Commission will be mailing out 25-hundred random surveys today.

Members Vidhya Iyer (Vid-dee-yuh-Igher) and Charlie Shook say the Commission wants to serve residents better, by understanding how they see diversity and if they view the group as a resource.

The members say the two-form, bilingual survey will cover every angle of discrimination

March 1, 2009

The YWCA of Greater Lafayette will honor Woman of Distinction Zenephia (Za-NEFF-ia) Evans tomorrow for her outstanding involvement in the community.

As Renetta Dubose shows us, It's at Purdue University where Evans displays how deserving she is of the award.

Zenephia Evans was the first person who came to mind when Lafayette resident Jane Sellers heard about the YWCA's Salute to Women.

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Education

As part of its coverage of the Greater Lafayette Commerce lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., the station profiled the group's position papers, including its paper on Education, which emphasized pre-school education initiatives. A long-standing community-based science and technology learning center closed for economic reasons during the first quarter of the year. Organizers hope to be able to revive the Imagination Station. The station also reported on efforts to reduce spending by local school corporations, including Benton Community Schools' decision to hire an efficiency monitor.

Education

February 23, 2009 6:00 p.m.

The group headed to D-C from Greater Lafayette Commerce says this year Congress is being responsive to teachers and administrators.

Many of the educational needs Tippecanoe County is pushing for are already addressed in the Stimulus Bill that became law last week.

February 17, 2009 6:00 p.m.

The Imagination Station is saying goodbye to Lafayette this March, at least for now.

The hands-on science, space, and technology center for children is closing its doors March second.

Jo Wade is a founding Imagination Station board member.

She says utility bills and other costs became too much for the facility.

But she says she isn't convinced it will be closed for good.

February 16, 2009 12:00 p.m.

The Benton Community School Corporation is trying to slow deficit spending... by going green. The school board is considering hiring an "Energy Education Manager."

It's a part-time position that will be funded by a stipend.. much like a coach.

The E-E-M will monitor and measure consumption... in order to use existing heating, cooling, water and sewer systems more efficiently

Superintendent Ross Sloat says Benton Community Schools needs to take more steps toward energy conservation... and as a result save cash.

Healthcare and Human Needs

As part of its coverage of Greater Lafayette Commerce's lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., WLFI profiled the organization's position paper on Healthcare issues. Local initiatives included affordable healthcare, and care for the uninsured. The station also used World Kidney Day in March to profile local efforts to raise awareness of chronic kidney disease.

Healthcare and Human Needs

February 19, 2009 6:00 p.m.

More than 30 people from Tippecanoe County will travel to Washington D-C to impress the needs of the community on the Congressional delegation.

Community representatives want to make the needs of this area heard in Washington.

One concern is the cost of health care.

Lina Reeves-Kerner:

I've been responsible for negotiating our healthcare at BASI for almost 30 years. And through those years I've seen it increase dramatically and how it impacts business, it has an effect on all of us.

March 12, 2009

One in ten adults has some form of kidney damage.

It's World Kidney Day...and Clarian Arnett Health is joining efforts to raise awareness about chronic kidney disease.

Alyssa Rossomme shows us the risk factors and symptoms everyone should recognize.

Roads and Transportation

Local government officials began discussing ways to use federal stimulus funds during the first quarter. WLFI kept viewers aware of road and transportation projects planners hoped to fund with stimulus money.

The station also updated viewers on floodwaters and their impact on road conditions.

The federal stimulus package also factored heavily at the annual Purdue Road School in March, where the state's \$658 million allocation was discussed by the Deputy Commissioner of Communications for the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Roads and Transportation

February 13, 2009 6:00 p.m.

The County has a wish-list of transportation projects it would like to see completed with money from the stimulus package.

The County is expecting nearly 4 million dollars for transportation projects from stimulus funding.

Its current two page list would cost 19 million dollars, So, it's going to have to be cut back.

February 13, 2009 6:00 p.m.

Rising water has made several roads in the county dangerous for drivers.

Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Sergeant Bob Brewer says drivers should be cautious near low-lying county roads, especially those near the Wildcat Creek.

March 10, 2009 6:00 p.m.

The Federal stimulus package was discussed during the opening session of the Purdue Road School.

The state of Indiana has 658 million dollars available for roads and bridges.

Currently, INDOT has 55 projects going on worth about 83 million dollars in 36 different counties around the state.

INDOT Deputy Commissioner of Communications, Bruce Childs, says these projects range from traffic lights, pavement work and bridge work.

